

NIESE TAKES MOUND AS METS OPEN UP SEASON

YANKEES, RED SOX TANGLE ACROSS TOWN IN THE BRONX. PAGE 23-24



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Sandy refugees may find themselves booted from Kings Hotel on Atlantic Avenue beginning April 30. / MILES DIXON/METRO

Clock ticking for Sandy victims who face eviction

Borrowed time. The city's hotel program for people who lost their homes in superstorm Sandy will end in one month's time, but many say they still have nowhere to live. PAGE 02

Holi Moley! The colors of Pagwah

PAGE 06



Thousands turned out in the Richmond Hill section of Queens to celebrate the annual Holi or Phagwah festival. The event harkens the arrival of spring. / KEVIN C. DOWNS

Unleash your inner bard, NYC!

The mayor and Metro team up: #NYCPoettweet. PAGE 02

Dumb jokes for your smartphone

It's April Fools' Day, so who are you pranking? PAGE 16

Eva Mendes really goes 'Beyond'

The actress talks playing it real in her new film. PAGE 13

1

NEWS



Quoted

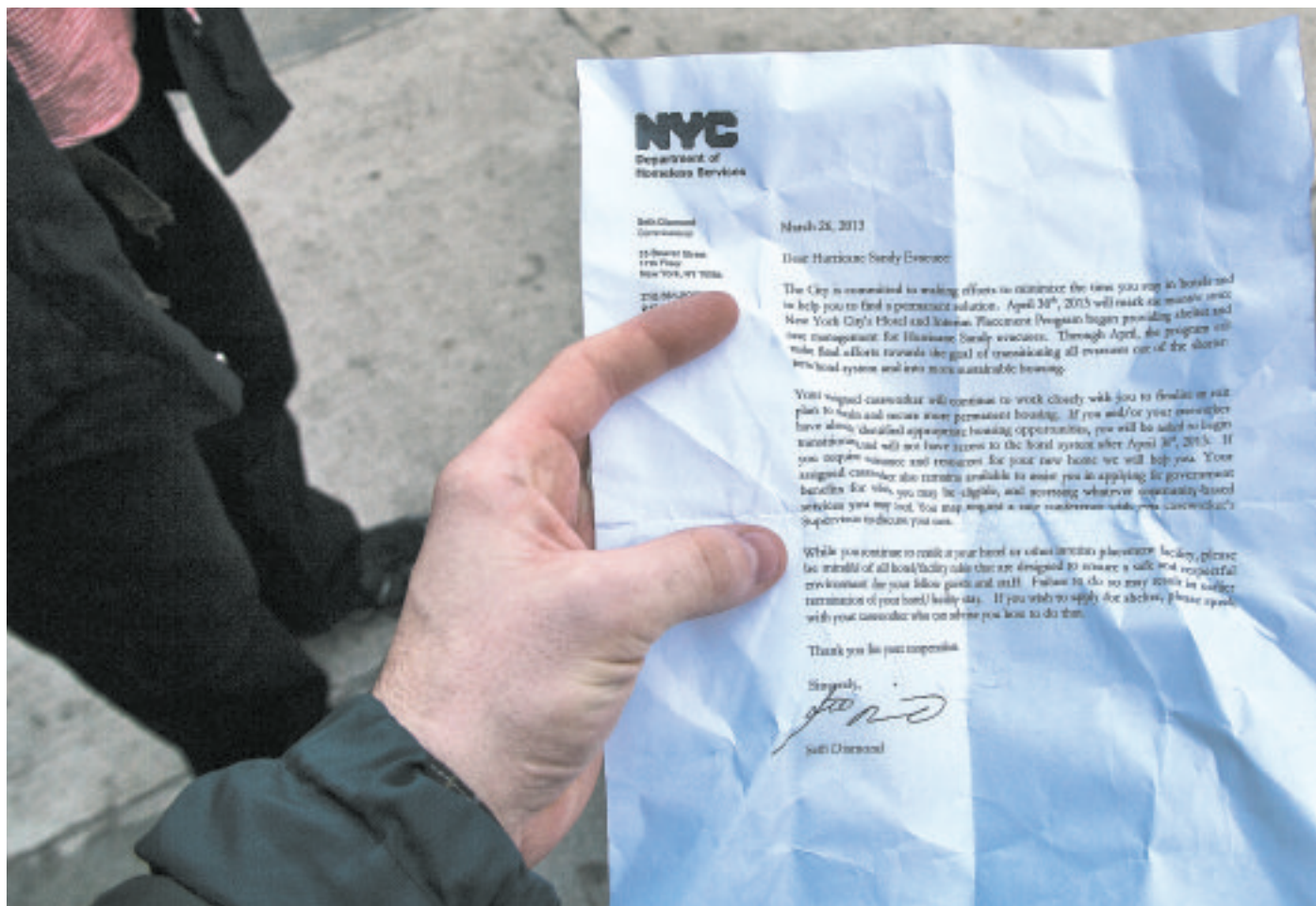
"No one should ever have to sacrifice pay just because they get sick."

—Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, on the City Council's paid-sick-leave bill.

Write a poem

Mayor's poetry contest

Mayor Bloomberg's 4th Annual "NYC Poetweet" Twitter poetry competition starts today. Tweet your original odes using the hashtag #NYCPoetweet until April 8 for a chance to be published in Metro on April 18, Poem in Your Pocket Day. Keep it clean and under 140 characters. More information at nyc.gov/poem.



A Sandy victim staying at the Kings Hotel on Atlantic Avenue shows a copy of the letter telling him that he will soon have to move out. / MILES DIXON, METRO

Sandy victims may be homeless again

Storm aftermath. New York City's hotel program will end on April 30, but hundreds say they still have no place to go.

Dena Pinto just wants a home again.

Pinto lost her apartment, on 116th Street in Far Rockaway, during Hurricane Sandy.

In the six months since, she's shuttled from hotel to hotel, finally landing in a city-funded Brooklyn room.

But Pinto, like about 800 others that the Coalition for the Homeless estimates are in city-funded hotels, will soon lose her room key.

Mayor Michael Bloom-

berg will close the hotel program April 30.

Advocates say that means people like Pinto, 47, will have no place to go.

The night of the hurricane, she said, "We were literally standing in the ocean. It was wild."

She tried to stay, but mold intervened. She ended up in a hotel in Queens, then one in Brooklyn.

After she and her fian-

cee lost their assistance for the Park Slope hotel, the city placed them at Kings Hotel on Atlantic Avenue.

"We're just dealing with it," she said, describing the tiny room where she and her fiancée can barely inch past each other. "It's hell."

They want their own place, but Giselle Routhier, a Coalition policy analyst who is helping Pinto,

said she faces a stream of problems too common among Sandy victims.

First, they faced a slew of paperwork and frustrating waits for assistance approval. In Far Rockaway, Pinto had an affordable apartment. Now she can't find something similar.

"Their incomes are not enough to support relocation to a market-rate apartment," Routhier said.

But for people in hotels, a few weeks might not be enough to secure affordable rents. Routhier fears they will end up in the shelter system.

"The majority of them are not going to have housing going forward," she said. "That's a huge problem."



ALISON BOWEN
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The deal

The mayor recently announced a rental-assistance system to Sandy victims.

- Under the program, the city promises rental subsidies for households displaced by Sandy.

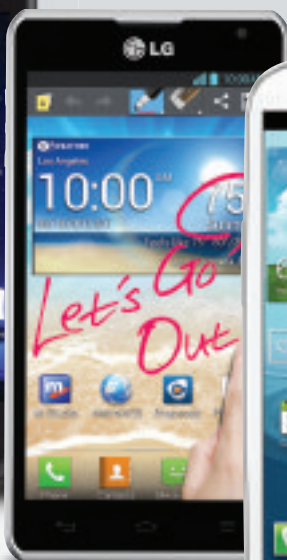


- Renters will pay up to 30 percent of their income in rent, with the city helping to cover cost afterwards.
- Funds are also allotted to help with first and last month's rent, according to city plans.

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Jogger is hit with stun gun and assaulted

Sex crimes. The young woman was zapped with a stun gun before being assaulted.

A 23-year-old woman was jogging in Forest Hills Park on Friday night when she was hit from behind with a stun gun and then sexually assaulted, police say.

The woman was jogging in a wooded area of the park when the man grabbed her from behind and used a stun gun on her neck repeatedly.



The suspect park attacker / NYPD

He stole her iPhone and then tried to rip off her pants and underwear.

A man and woman walking their dog heard the woman screaming as they approached, and the suspect fled, cops said.

The couple, who did not see the attack, gave the victim their cell phone to call the police.

Cops described the suspect as a white male in his late 30s with reddish-brown hair, about 5-foot-9.

He was wearing a navy-blue hooded sweatshirt and navy-blue sweatpants, and had facial hair and a gold hoop earring.

The NYPD is asking the public to help locate the suspect. Anyone with information should call 1-800-577-TIPS (8477).



DANIELLE
TCHOLAKIAN

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Hats on at the Easter Bonnet Parade

The eccentric, the bold and the colorful donned headgear to take part in the annual Easter Bonnet Parade on 5th Avenue between 49th and 57th streets. Hundreds turned out to take part in the event, which started as a way to show off their Sunday best after Easter services. / AARON ADLER

Auto accident

Car clips nine in Brooklyn

Nine pedestrians were injured on Saturday evening when a car jumped the curb and smashed into some scaffolding in Brooklyn, according to FDNY and NYPD reports.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

Initiation

Police on watch for gang violence

Police beefed up patrols in tourist-heavy Manhattan yesterday to avoid a repeat of gang violence that has flared up over Easter weekend in the past.

EMILY JOHNSON

Environment

Yoko Ono faces fracking investigation

A complaint questioning whether Artists Against Fracking, started by Yoko Ono, could be violating New York lobbying law has been filed with the state.

EMILY JOHNSON

NY to search for Sept. 11 attack victims

Terror attacks.

The city will sift the debris looking for some of the hundreds of bodies that were never identified.

New York City plans to start sifting through earth and debris recovered from the World Trade Center site today to look for the remains of victims from the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, officials said.

The city's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner on Friday advised families of the dead about the new sifting operation, the first since 2010, a spokeswoman said in a



One World Trade Center
METRO ARCHIVE

statement.

The Medical Examiner's Office has identified remains of 1,634 people out of 2,752 killed when suicide hijackers crashed into the twin towers, leaving more than 1,000 families without any physical remains of those who died.

After the initial clean-up of the site, the city scaled back operations to search for remains, drawing criticism from families of the dead, who said they could not properly grieve. The city widened its search again in 2006.

The next search will comb through 590 cubic yards of excavated material taken from and near the World Trade Center site, said Caswell Hallaway, deputy mayor for operations, in a memo to Mayor Michael Bloomberg made public by the Medical Examiner's Office.

Much of the site known as Ground Zero is a construction zone for new skyscrapers and a memorial where the twin towers once stood.

REUTERS

Litigation

Daughter of man hit by train sues MTA

The daughter of a man who was fatally pushed in front of a train will sue the MTA. Ashley Han, daughter of Ki-Suk Han, filed a lawsuit, according to the New York Post.

ALISON BOWEN

College tragedy

Girl dies in Columbia U. dorm

A 21-year-old woman was found dead in a dorm room yesterday at Columbia University, according to the NYPD.

The identity of the deceased is being withheld while the family is notified.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN



Good Friday walk over the Brooklyn Bridge

The Way of the Cross processional left St. James Cathedral and walked across the Brooklyn Bridge on Good Friday. The group stopped at City Hall and the Ground Zero memorial before ending at St. Peter's Church. / PAUL LACHENAUER



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There was a spring awakening at the annual Phagwah parade in Richmond Hills. The colorful event has become a major attraction for the quiet neighborhood.

BY KEVIN C. DOWNS

Thousands celebrate Holi fest in Queens

1 Proud parade.

Thousands gathered in Richmond Hill, Queens, on Saturday to celebrate Phagwah, or Holi, the festival of colors.

The celebration is an Indo-Caribbean festival, where participants throw colored dye or abrac and powder to celebrate spring and the chasing away of winter.

The Queens celebration is the largest such event in the United States.



2 Colorful display.

Dillan Fontus Massay, 7, is covered in dye, at the Holi festival. Thousands turned out for the event, a neighborhood tradition.



3 Girl power at Holi.

Young girls stop on Liberty Avenue after being doused in dye for the festival. Holi celebrates the end of winter and ushers in the start of spring.

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Necklaces.....	Up To.....	\$26,000	Diamond Wedding Bands..	Up To.....	\$55,000
Cocktail Rings.....	Up To.....	\$15,000	Art Nouveau.....	Up To.....	\$12,500
Charm Bracelets.....	Up To.....	\$5,500	Lavalieres.....	Up To.....	\$8,000
Earrings.....	Up To.....	\$10,500	Garnets Jewelry.....	Up To.....	\$1,000
Bracelets.....	Up To.....	\$13,000	Bakelite Rings.....	Up To.....	\$750
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South Africa

Mandela's condition improving

The condition of Nelson Mandela has improved further, the government said yesterday. He is in the hospital while receiving treatment for pneumonia.

"Former President Nelson Mandela had a restful day," South Africa's presidency said in a statement. **REUTERS**

Syrian uprising

Rebels set fire to oil wells

Syrian rebels have set three oil wells in the east of the country ablaze, causing a daily loss of nearly 5,000 barrels of oil and 52,000 cubic meters of gas, state media quoted an oil ministry official as saying. **REUTERS**



The first family celebrates Easter

President Barack Obama, daughter Sasha, First Lady Michelle Obama and daughter Malia walk across Lafayette Park from the White House yesterday on their way to Easter services at St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. / GETTY IMAGES

Immigration. Senate group resolves key issues on reform

With U.S. business and labor now in agreement, a bipartisan group of U.S. senators has resolved all major issues in a pending deal to overhaul the U.S. immigration system and aims to unveil it after Congress reconvenes in the second week of April, key lawmakers said yesterday.

The lawmakers said that while there was no final deal yet, they hope and even expect there to be one soon after the measure is put into legislative language so all eight senators in the bipartisan group can review it.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the biggest U.S. business group, and the AFL-CIO, the largest labor federation, reached an elusive agreement on a guest worker program on Friday, clearing the way for the writing of a

full bill.

The bill will include an earned pathway to U.S. citizenship for an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants, bolstered border security and ways for business to meet the need for both high-skilled and low-skilled workers.

"With the agreement between business and labor, every major policy issue has been resolved," said Sen. Charles Schumer, a New York Democrat and a leader of the so-called Gang of Eight, which has four Democrats and four Republicans.

"We've all agreed that we're not going to come to a final agreement until we see draft legislative language and we agree on that," Schumer told NBC's "Meet the Press." **REUTERS**

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Italian president in political standoff

News. Italy's 87-year-old president is facing the greatest test of his career.

President Giorgio Napolitano's final weeks in office will be spent trying to end the standoff preventing a new government from being formed more than a month after elections.

Following widespread reports he may resign to open the way for a new vote, Napolitano pledged to remain in office at the Quirinale palace until his term ends on May 15, averting the immediate threat of further turmoil.

He named 10 "wise men" including European Affairs Minister Enzo Moavero and senior

politicians from the main center-left and center-right blocs to propose a series of urgent measures that could be backed by all parties.

Details will be announced tomorrow but are expected to include cutting the cost of the bloated political system and replacing the widely criticized electoral law to avoid a repeat of the deadlock in future elections. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"It would be a disaster to go back to an election without having reformed the electoral law."

Valerio Onida, former head of the Constitutional Court, who is part of the advisory group, told La Repubblica newspaper



The prospect of Napolitano leaving raised alarm and moves to escape the impasse received a cautious welcome from commentators yesterday. / GETTY IMAGES

Nuclear accident. One dead, three hurt at Arkansas plant

An industrial accident at an Arkansas nuclear power plant killed one worker and injured three others yesterday, but there was no release of nuclear material, authorities and the operator said.

A generator fell as it was being moved out of the turbine building at Entergy Corp.'s Arkansas Nuclear One plant in Russellville, Entergy said in a statement.

"There was no nuclear release of any kind," said Ed Barham, a spokesman for the Arkansas Health Department.

The plant's Unit 1 was off-line for refueling and Unit 2 automatically shut down, and there is no danger to the public, per the statement. **REUTERS**

International

Building collapse kills 29 in Africa

Rescuers pulled 29 bodies from the rubble of a 12-story building that collapsed yesterday in Tanzania's commercial capital Dar es Salaam. **REUTERS**

Easter message

Pope appeals for end to Korea crisis

Pope Francis called for world peace, respect for the environment and a diplomatic solution to the crisis on the Korean peninsula in his first Easter Sunday address. **REUTERS**



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A class with several hundred thousand students? MOOC's make it happen. / FUSE

Education goes massive

Academics. Massive open online courses allow thousands of students at once to complete coursework over the Internet.

Not too many university lecture halls can accommodate 37,000 students, but campus space is no hurdle for the growing number of MOOCs — massive open online courses — offered by top universities to students around the world. Many of the courses available have no prerequisites and are open to people of all ages and nationalities. Coursework can be completed remotely over the Internet, and cover topics as diverse as epidemiology, Greek literature and introductions to musical instruments.

Several dozen universities worldwide have begun offering free online courses

to increase access to quality education using resources made possible by modern technology. Anant Agarwal, president of edX, a Harvard- and MIT-based nonprofit offering several such MOOCs, believes it might be time to rethink education.

"If you walked into a classroom 100 years ago and walked into a classroom today, not much has changed. Almost every other field has changed completely," Agarwal said.

The edX experience is designed to mimic many aspects of a traditional university course. The 730,000 edX students from 192 countries have access to video lectures, interactive exercises, discussion forums and virtual laboratories. Students receive grades through a computer grading system, and can interact with one another to get help and collaborate on assignments. Upon passing the course, each student receives a certificate with

a unique ID number that can be verified by employers.

The flexibility offered by MOOCs can be attractive to nontraditional students. After taking a few years off work to raise her children, Kirsten Hashemi enrolled in an edX course on statistics and epidemiology called Health and Numbers to return to the research roots of her undergraduate studies.

"The biggest benefit of the way that edX is set up is they have multiple ways of engaging the community," Hashemi said. "The variety made it more fulfilling than I anticipated."

Hashemi described her surprise at the level of challenge offered by the course, which assigned weekly homework and drew from electronic textbooks. "This was not a blow-off course, but they provided us with everything we needed to do it."



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Log on?

Man vs. machine

While MOOCs are designed to convey the same knowledge to students as their traditional counterparts, they are

aspects of university life that cannot be replicated electronically.

"On a university campus, students can speak one-on-one with the professor, do research and learn how to

work in a community," Agarwal explained.

"At the end of the day, things you learn at a university are simply different than things you learn from an online course."



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Transgender student denied application to Smith college

Education. Calliope Wong has identified as female since she was a teen, but Smith has turned her away twice.

A transgender student has had her application to a prestigious all-women's college denied because she is tagged as legally male on government documents, prompting a vocal online campaign. Calliope Wong, 17, who was born male but has identified as female since adolescence, says that Smith College in Massachusetts twice opted not to read her application.

Almost all of Wong's paperwork, including transcripts and references, identifies her as female, but her Free Application for Federal Student Aid form marks her as male.

Smith's admissions



Quoted

"Every application is treated case-by-case and application materials must reflect female identity."

Fenlason

office told Wong the FAFSA designation makes her ineligible, based on Smith's

policy that applications consistently reflect that the student is a woman. Laurie Fenlason, of Smith's public affairs office, says the school doesn't comment on the status of individual applicants. However, she says "every application is treated case-by-case and application materials must reflect female identity."

Smith also has legal concerns over changing admissions policies, Fenlason

says. Schools like Smith are concerned they could lose federal funding under Title IX, a law that bans sexual discrimination in education but exempts single-sex institutions.

Wong's plight has garnered attention online among Smith's often-progressive students and alumni, who have taken to Facebook. Smith has accepted only women since opening in 1875. **REUTERS**



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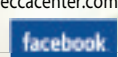
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2

CULTURE



Twitterfeed

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Kristin Chenoweth is frustrated, Paris Hilton is living it up abroad and Bob Saget is a fan of breakfast.

@KChenoweth: How can one weigh 88 lbs and still have a muffin top?

@ParisHilton: Just finished judging Miss Ukraine, had a great time. Now to the after party to celebrate my friend Alexander Onyschenko's birthday!

@bobsaget: Every day that I begin with eggs goes really well.

Bieber's pet monkey seized by Germans

Although this seems like an April Fools' Day joke, it isn't: Justin Bieber's pet monkey is under quarantine in Berlin. The singer's prized Capuchin monkey was seized by German customs officials after he tried to bring the animal into the country without permission, according to People magazine. "Justin Bieber brought his monkey to Germany but had no official paperwork for him," a customs spokesman



says. "We were forced to confiscate the animal." If this were 1970, this would totally be a plotline of an episode of "Hogan's Heroes."

Seyfried gets the worst comparison

What's the worst insult a young actress can endure? This might be it. "Les Misérables" star Amanda Seyfried was mistaken at LAX for her "Mean Girls" co-star Lindsay Lohan. "I just got mistaken for a Ms. Lohan at Newark Airport," Seyfried posted to Twitter. It's probably not a compari-

son Seyfried welcomes, considering her previous comments about Lohan: "Lindsay was great on 'Mean Girls.' I think that was before she got a little nuts," Seyfried told Teen Vogue. "I kind of don't expect some of these girls, who've been working since they were 2, to be sane."



THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson's take on the world of gossip

DOROTHY ROBINSON

@dorothyatmetro
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'AMW' canceled once again



After 25 seasons of helping to nab low-lives, "America's Most Wanted" has been canceled — again. Fox axed the show in 2011. Lifetime picked it up but doesn't seem happy with the ratings. TV Guide reports that host John Walsh may be shopping the show to other networks.



And in famous baby news

Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard welcomed a baby girl late last week. "Lincoln Bell Shepard is here," Shepard posted to Twitter. "She has Mom's beauty and Dad's obsession with breasts. Hooray!" Meanwhile, Jeremy Renner and an ex-girlfriend welcomed a daughter, according to Us Weekly. "They are beyond thrilled," a rep for Renner says.

Gummer and Walker to divorce

Mamie Gummer and husband Ben Walker are no longer. She was the lead in the newly cancelled TV series "Emily Owens, M.D." and he was in "Abraham Lincoln Vampire Slayer." They married at Gummer's family estate in Connecticut last July. No reason was given for the split.



Eva Mendes is not another glamazon

Film. One of the stars of "The Place Beyond the Pines" talks about gravitating toward challenging fare and playing older.

"I'm an actress," Eva Mendes announces, with a relaxed smile. "I'm certainly not a glamazon. I turn it on when I have to, if I have to wear something on the red carpet to sell a movie. That's not where the art lies."

A former "it" girl, Mendes has done her fair share of questionable Hollywood product ("2 Fast 2 Furious," "Hitch," "Ghost Rider"). But she's always made room for more challenging fare, such as "We Own the Night," "Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans" and "Training Day," in which she played Denzel Washington's mistress. "I was as raw as you could be in that movie," she recalls. "That's what I gravitate toward."

She's now in "The Place Beyond the Pines," a megadrama in which she plays a small-town waitress who sired a baby with a carnival motorcycle racer played by her real-life boyfriend, Ryan Gosling. "I feel like I've been prepping for this role my whole life, whether I realized it or not," she says.

The film spans 15 years, requiring her to



Eva Mendes plays a harried waitress in "The Place Beyond the Pines." / ATSUSHI NISHIJIMA

Quoted

"I'm certainly not a glamazon. I turn it on when I have to, if I have to wear something on the red carpet to sell a movie. That's not where the art lies. ... I was as raw as you could be in [Training Day]. That's what I gravitate toward."

Eva Mendes

On being an artist, not a movie star

don some light aging makeup. "I didn't think of it as aging. I thought of it as a pain manifesting its way through time," she says. To make herself look older, she shaved her eyebrows down to a very thin line — in the middle of the night, without telling her director, Derek Cianfrance. "These were things that would suggest this is a woman who abandoned herself."

Like everyone in the cast, Mendes has raved about Cianfrance ("Blue Valentine," also with Gosling) as a director who places actors front and

center. "He's my dream director," she says. "I've never worked with anyone like this. He creates this world that feels so incredibly natural." Cianfrance had her work at the diner that employs her character, where she talked to the waitresses about their lives and histories. He even had her cast her own mom.

"I have a theory," she says. "It's very difficult to not be good in a Derek Cianfrance film."



MATT PRIGGE

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In Pictures



1 Gwen Stefani. Rock steady.

Gwen Stefani and husband Gavin Rossdale went for a stroll in Los Angeles on Saturday.

WIREIMAGE

2 Kendrick Lamar. Paying dues.

Rapper Kendrick Lamar performed at the 2013 Paid Dues Hip Hop Festival in San Bernardino, Calif., on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

3 Seth Rogen. Playing dress up.

Funny guy Seth Rogen was dressed as Wolverine on Saturday while speaking at WonderCon Anaheim 2013 in Anaheim, California. GETTY IMAGES

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It's pronounced 'Serr-sha'



Saoirse Ronan, star of "The Host," is seen here with blue eyes (not her own). / ALAN MARKFIELD

Film. The star of the latest Stephenie Meyer film, "The Host," talks about talking to herself, "love squares" and befriending her best-selling author.

Talking to herself comes naturally to young Irish actress Saoirse Ronan, so her dual roles in "The Host" weren't really that daunting. In the film — based on "Twilight" author Stephenie Meyer's novel — Ronan plays Melanie, who lives in a future where alien parasites have come to Earth and inhabited all humans. Melanie is taken over, but with one complication: Melanie doesn't go away, remaining as a rather upset voice in her parasite's head.

That means a good amount of the movie consists of Ronan having conversations with her own voice-over. Eventually, she and director Andrew Niccol settled on an earpiece that would

transmit Ronan's prerecorded Melanie dialogue on Niccol's cue, something none of Ronan's co-stars could hear. "I talk to myself so much anyway that it was just like a normal day for me," she says. "So it was a very natural thing for me to talk to myself."

While Meyer's mega-hit vampire series revolved around a love triangle between a human girl, a vampire and a werewolf, she clearly felt the need to up the complexity factor. In "The Host," Melanie has a boyfriend (Max

Irons) from before she becomes inhabited, which becomes a problem when another human survivor (Jake Abel) becomes interested in Wanda — while she's inhabiting Melanie's body. So what exactly do we call a situation like that? "We're saying it's a love square," Ronan says. "Or a love rectangle, or a love parallelogram. Take your pick. As long as it has four sides."



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A friendly 'Host'

On Meyer

Saoirse Ronan has grown close to her "Host" author and producer, Stephenie Meyer, since signing on to bring Meyer's latest teen heroine from page to screen. Some might think, then, that Ronan's choice to star in a rather un-"Twilight"-like vampire movie, "Byzantium" — directed by "Interview With the Vampire" auteur Neil

Jordan and co-starring Gemma Arterton — might pique Meyer's interest. "She hasn't seen it yet, actually. I think she told me that she wants to see it, but I haven't really talked to her too much about it," Ronan admits. "I mean, when I said to her it was a vampire film, she was like, 'Really?' But I was like, 'It's not "Twilight"! It's a different one, I swear!"



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Welcome to another British cop thriller

Film. Mark Strong is again the bad guy in the latest British crime saga, with James McAvoy as an obsessive detective.

"Welcome to the Punch" was once on the "Brit List," the English equivalent of America's "Black List," which rounds up the best scripts that have thus far gone unproduced. Don't think that automatically means originality: "Punch" shares much in common with plenty of other Brit-

ish thrillers, among them the very recent "The Sweeney," including absurdly dedicated detectives and the same character "shockingly" killed off. "Punch" is affably generic, notable only for being capably executed and for making the ubiquitous gravel-voiced bullet-headed baddie (Mark Strong) partly sympathetic, for a change.

James McAvoy plays an obsessive detective whose latest near-conquest (Strong) eludes him to retire in Iceland. But just as Strong's character thinks he's out of the game, he's pulled back in after his son gets caught

up in underworld tomfoolery — to McAvoy's delight (so to speak).

The relatively short pretty boy McAvoy is miscast as a vein-popping hothead. But McAvoy, as ever, is a hard worker; while trying to fit into a role for which he's ill-equipped, he inadvertently gives the moth-ridden character type a welcome twist.

Strong, meanwhile, has done sinister villain duty before — many times before, in "Sherlock Holmes" and "Robin Hood" and "Kick Ass." He's capable of far more, and he excels as the improbable heart of a mov-



James McAvoy and Mark Strong star in "Welcome to the Punch." / CHRIS RAPHAEL

Review

'Welcome to the Punch'

Director: Eran Creevy

Stars: James McAvoy, Mark Strong

Rating: R



ie that still makes him shake down people with guns.

Writer/director Eran Creevy keeps things heavy and humorless — too much so for material this inconsequential, much less for a movie called "Welcome to the Punch," which no one, regrettably, says right before punching someone.

But "Punch" does have the capacity to surprise you with its genuine humanity — and through an intense showdown that's funked up by the surprise appearance of delightful Mike Leigh regular, Ruth Sheen.



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No foolin': We've got you covered for today's high jinks

Technology. Here are low-maintenance jokes for your smartphone for April Fools' Day.

It's April Fools' — no, really, it's today.

If the prank holiday got lost in the blur of Monday morning, fear not — Metro has some last-minute ideas for you as you're on the way to the office.

The whoopee cushion is old news, say the creators of the Fart O Gram. This prank-calling service allows you to enter a phone number to be pranked, then calls the person and lets the flatu-



Prank someone else with the "Prank Me" app. / CONTRIBUTED

can set up on your phone, try the "Fake Text" app. It crafts a message that pops up on your screen, from, perhaps, Barack Obama. All you do is download the app and type in the celebrity you want to drop you a line.

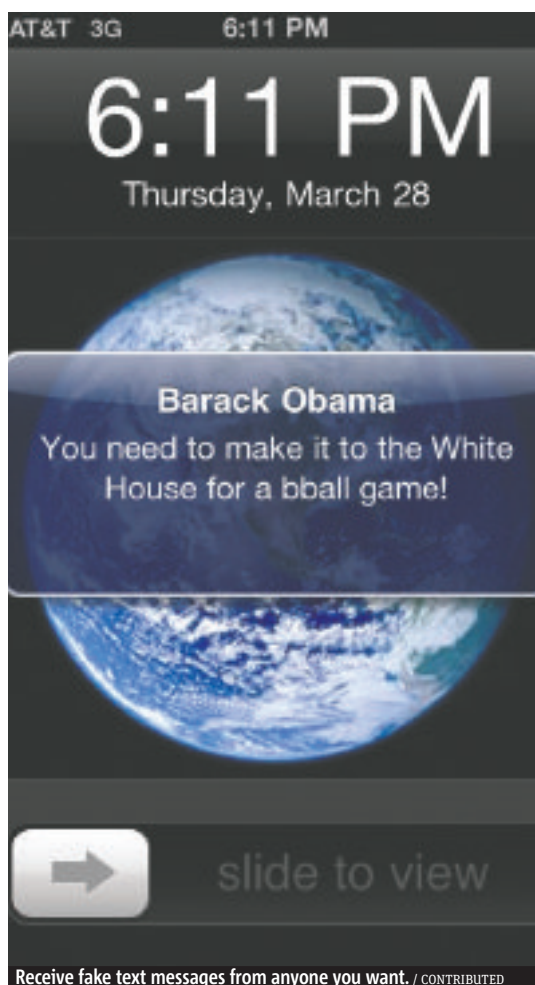
Another app, "Prank Me," logs recorded voices — from an IRS representative saying you owe \$10,000 to a celeb like Regis Philbin calling about "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." The catch? The app calls your phone, so to prank someone with the recording, you have to hold your phone up to another receiver as you dial someone else.



ALISON BOWEN
alison.bowen@metro.us

lence rip as they pick up. Take your time choosing from the "Sexy Stall" or the "Costume Party," where a female voice pretends to have met the prankee before.

For another prank you



Receive fake text messages from anyone you want. / CONTRIBUTED

Old-school style

Pranks on the small screen

Gift wrap: We all know arriving at the office is a gift, but make it official by wrapping up an office computer and chair with that wrapping paper you bought at CVS two holiday seasons ago. This is a gem inspired by "The Office." During their ongoing prank-off, Jim gift wraps Dwight's desk and everything on it.

Mess with someone's ears: In "New Girl," Nick wants to prove that he's the prank master. Although many of his shenanigans are too much work (reworking a wall so it appears smaller), this one is office-effective: claim the TV (or some Pandora music) is blaring, and get your office mates to nod along to make the others think they are going deaf.

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TV watch list



Billy Burke, center, swings away (with a sword) on the latest episode of the J.J. Abrams-produced "Revolution." / BROWNIE HARRIS, NBC

DRAMA

'Revolution'

This postapocalyptic dystopian future series, produced by J.J. Abrams, is like a Wild West show for the paranoid. But hey, Gus Fring (aka Giancarlo Esposito) is there, so that's nice.

10 P.M., NBC

REALITY

'The Gossip Game'

Settle into the cutthroat world of tabloid reporters going against each other for the next big scoop in the latest reality show you won't believe is actually a reality show. **SERIES PREMIERE, 9 P.M., VH1**

REALITY

'The Devils Ride'

Get the truth behind the turf war between San Diego motorcycle clubs and get the dirt on a bizarrely irrelevant rivalry — in San Diego, of all places.

10 P.M., DISCOVERY

REALITY

'Master of the Mix'

DJs compete for the top title in this reality show on the trendy art of mixing. Interestingly named Jay-Z producer Just Blaze plays host.

10 P.M., VH1
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Portrait of an artist as an old man

Film. "Renoir" hangs with father-and-son artists Pierre-Auguste and Jean on opposite sides of life.

Like "Young Mr. Lincoln" and Mike Leigh's Gilbert and Sullivan saga "Topsy-Turvy," the new "Renoir" forgoes the Great Man biopic template to focus exclusively on a tiny slither of its subject's life. In this case, it's the final years of painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir (Michel Bouquet), portrayed as an alternately cranky and warm septuagenarian breaking in Andree (Christa Theret), a new and frequently nude model.

Review

'Renoir'

Director: Gilles Bourdos

Stars: Michel Bouquet, Christa Theret

Rated: R



Michel Bouquet stars as Pierre-Auguste in the biopic "Renoir."

FIDELITE FILMS AND SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS

"Renoir" starts as a more approachable version of Jacques Rivette's four-hour "La Belle Noiseuse," a breezy, patient look at the relationship between artist and muse. Matters gradually turn more conventional. Renoir's 20-something son Jean (Vincent Rottiers) swings by from

WWI to hit on Andree and just barely show the seeds of the pioneering filmmaker he would soon become. Its portrait of the great director as a young man, strident where he would one day be charming, is questionable and reductive, portraying him as lording over Andree (who would become his

first wife). Still, that's not enough to break the leisurely countryside spell, even if said spell is not nearly as enchanting as the one Renoir the Younger did in his 1936 film "A Day in the Country."



MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

'G.I. Joe' and Tyler Perry obliterated Stephenie Meyer

Action movie "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" won the weekend box office battle in the United States and Canada, fighting off competition from cartoon cavemen, a Tyler Perry drama and an alien-possessed heroine trying to save the human race.

"G.I. Joe," a sequel starring Channing Tatum, Dwayne Johnson and Bruce Willis, secured \$41.2 million in domestic ticket sales from Friday through Sunday, according to studio estimates. The film is the sequel to 2009's "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra."

Last week's winner, animated prehistoric adventure "The Croods," slipped to second place with \$26.5 million in the United States and Canada. "Tyler Perry's Temptation," the filmmaker's latest effort, landed in the No. 3 slot with \$22.3 million.

"G.I. Joe" opened Wednesday evening to get a jump on the Easter holiday weekend. The cumulative box office after Sunday is estimated at \$51.7 million. In interna-



The "G.I. Joe" sequel gunned its way to the top of the box office.

JAMIE TRUEBLOOD

tional markets, the movie racked up \$80.3 million, for a global haul of \$132 million.

"Temptation," a departure from Perry's hit comedies, focuses on a married woman drawn to a handsome billionaire. The movie stars Jurnee Smollett-Bell, Lance Gross and Vanessa Williams. Reality TV star Kim Kardashian plays a small role and helped promote the film through TV appearances and social media.

Another new release, sci-fi romantic thriller

"The Host," finished in sixth place with \$11 million. The movie is based on a novel by Stephenie Meyer, author of the "Twilight" vampire series that became a blockbuster movie franchise.

In fourth place, thriller "Olympus Has Fallen" earned \$14 million during its second weekend. The movie stars Gerard Butler and Morgan Freeman in the tale of a White House under attack. Disney's "Oz the Great and Powerful" came in fifth with \$11.6 million. **REUTERS**

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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April

20. Your creativity is skyrocketing, so take advantage of it. Your ideas will be successful, as long as you follow through.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21.

Don't despair if your recent schemes have yet to pan out. Make sure that you've done everything possible.

Gemini | May 22 - June

20. Intangible ideas could prove to be of greater value than things of a material nature.

Cancer | June 21 - July

22. Even if benefits are presently coming your way without too much exertion on your part, imagine how much more could happen if you put forth some effort.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22.

It could be to your benefit to try to help others realize their hopes and expectations.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept.

22. You're destined to accomplish something of significance that could produce more than a few benefits. However, it may not be apparent that a

bonus is on its way — it is.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22.

This is a good day to once again analyze a problem that you've been unable to resolve.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 -

Nov. 21. If an important enterprise in which you're involved has a dire need for something you possess, deliver.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22

- Dec. 21. Even if you're operating well on your own, you would be even more productive with a

capable partner.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan

20. It looks like the career opportunity that you've been looking for is about to come your way.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 -

Feb. 18. Friends are likely to talk to you about all kinds of things, imparting information that they wouldn't reveal to others.

Pisces | Feb. 19 -

March 20. Your financial prospects look to be quite encouraging over the next few days. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Letters

Age is just a number

I am frankly sick and tired of hearing Dorothy Robinson publicly expressing her disgust over the fact that 86-year-old Hugh Hefner has a sexual life. What is it to her? Is she just jealous, or what? I wonder if she would express the same disgust over an 86-year-old woman having a sexual life. I guess she probably would. This is both ignorant and ageist. Obviously, Ms. Robinson knows very little about both human sexuality and the aging process. I guess in her little mind she envisions all octogenarians slobbering on their bibs in some nursing home or assisted living facility. Anything else gives her the creeps. Some people completely lose their sexual drive

already at 50. Others maintain their vigor and libido all the way into their 90s. But again, what is it to her? Of course, most people can only wish they'll be so lucky. **PASQUALE G. TATO, VIA EMAIL**

Become fearlessly married

Kudos to Jonathan Alpert for discovering the secret of my success — a marriage modeled on Starbucks. The partnership between me and my wife is predicated on brand exposure and real estate acquisition. Don't forget to replicate! And when you're exhausted from being an outsized caricature of society's expectations, fat and sugar is useful for covering up that burnt taste in your mouth. Yes, my marriage — wait, no, I'm thinking of Donald Trump.

EVAN D., VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them a brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Quoted

"YEEHAW! Thanks for going back to two puzzles. It is much appreciated."

JOSEPH DUNLAVEY, VIA EMAIL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

8		9		1				
	7	5		4			1	
			6	8	9			4
					8	4		
	5	6				2	7	
		3	2					
7			4	9	1			
	9			5		3	4	
			2		1			7

				4				
2			7		8			6
	7	8			5		1	
	5	3	8	9				
		4	1		6	5		
				5	7	4	9	
	2		5			3	4	
4			6		3			9
				1				

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across

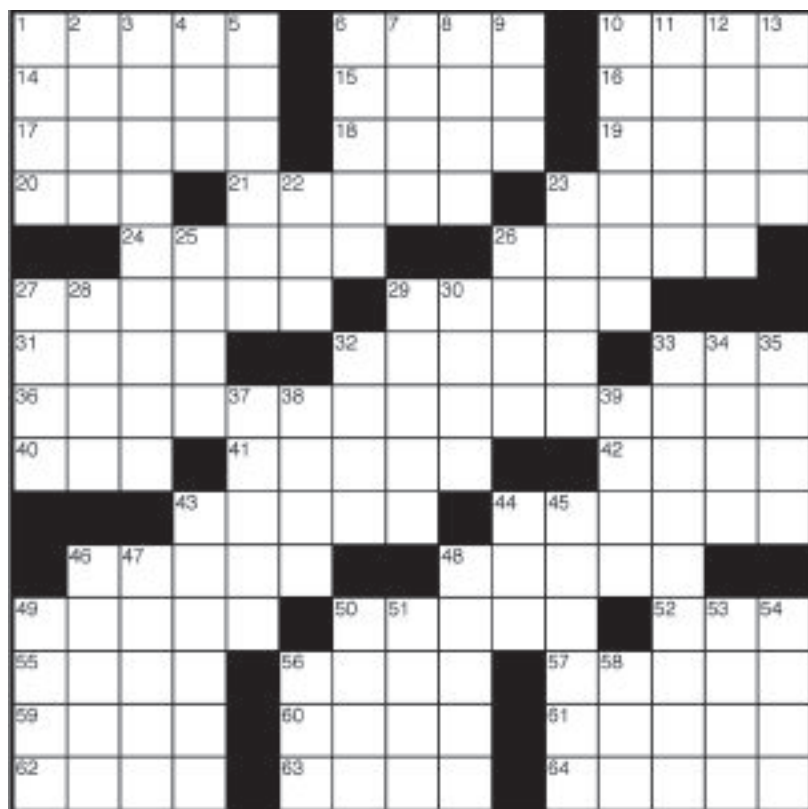
- 1 Hiding place
- 6 Marched along
- 10 Lhasa —
- 14 Skipper's bellow
- 15 By heart
- 16 Clove-scented flower
- 17 Gaiety
- 18 Queens stadium
- 19 Urgent appeal
- 20 Practiced Zen
- 21 Cheesy snack
- 23 Polar explorer
- 24 In a hostile manner
- 26 Rough sketch
- 27 Posh quarters
- 29 Robin — of balladry
- 31 Historic years
- 32 Iridescent gems
- 33 Previous to
- 36 Exactly so (4 wds.)
- 40 — won do
- 41 Lugs or carries
- 42 Nearly shut
- 43 Easy mark
- 44 Early release
- 46 Removes snow
- 48 Given to back talk
- 49 Polite coughs
- 50 Addresses for ladies
- 52 Wire gauge
- 55 Pumice source

- 56 Had an intuition
- 57 Launch rocket
- 59 Drew on
- 60 Part of A.M.
- 61 Column order
- 62 Only
- 63 Dorm view
- 64 Starbucks order

Down

- 1 Engine parts
- 2 Running shoe brand
- 3 Gristle
- 4 FDR veep
- 5 Cultural
- 6 Frequent Hepburn costar
- 7 — Hashanah
- 8 He overthrew Galba
- 9 Kiki or Joey
- 10 Materialize
- 11 Dish with saffron
- 12 Hagar's dog
- 13 Not super
- 22 Nut-brown quaff
- 23 Light refractor
- 25 Kind of cow
- 26 Carnegie or Evans
- 27 Fresh
- 28 Diva's rendition
- 29 Suitably
- 30 Dit partners
- 32 Big burden
- 33 Delight
- 34 Not phony
- 35 Bronte governess
- 37 Unfreezes
- 38 Nutritious grains
- 39 Thole fillers
- 43 Brilliantine
- 44 Cooking spray brand
- 45 Beset
- 46 Moon position
- 47 Crowbar
- 48 Jaded
- 49 Pickling ingredient
- 50 Waiter's offering
- 51 Banff's prov.
- 53 Put one's foot —
- 54 Intertwine
- 56 Online info
- 58 India's smallest state

Weekend's answer





PLUS

Fitness

Sign up!

The Brooklyn Half Marathon is coming up on May 18, and New Balance wants your help in designing official race apparel inspired by the borough of Brooklyn. You have until Friday to submit your designs as a PDF to brooklynhalf@gmail.com.

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FINDING PEACE IN AN URBAN JUNGLE

"I am so tired of the city, but I have to live here because of my husband's job. The traffic, noise and pushy people seriously stress me out. Plus it's so expensive! My husband promises we'll move in a few years, when he's more established. But for now, I'm stuck. Any words of wisdom?"

Last weekend, I had the pleasure of taking a professional workshop on mindfulness interventions for stress and depression relapse prevention. Our first exercise was to explore a raisin from the perspective of what Buddhists call Beginner's

Mind. Our instructions: to see, taste, smell and handle the tiny shriveled morsel as if experiencing it for the first time.

Simply put, the point of the lesson was to demonstrate how otherwise familiar objects take on a whole new light when you slow down to pay closer attention to them. The same can be said of urban life. Most city slickers have mastered the art of tunnel vision to maintain sanity amid the pandemonium. But you don't need to escape the city to find peace. In fact, all of urban life could be seen as an opportunity for mindfulness practice.

Here are some examples:

1 To practice Beginner's Mind, walk down a block near your home or work that you don't normally take. Find something that draws your attention — a tree, beautiful architecture, an animal or a sidewalk flower bed. Using as many senses as appropriate, spend five minutes watching and noticing the intricacies of this object. You might be pleasantly surprised to notice things you might have overlooked before.

2 Frequent unexpected delays and detours on buses, trains and traffic offer an ideal opportunity to practice the mindfulness concept of Patience. Next time you're stopped on the



When city life gets to you, these

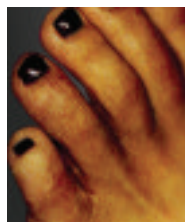
Express train while several Local trains breeze past, take several deep breaths and gently remind yourself, "I am practicing patience." You might also simultaneously

Downtown Podiatry

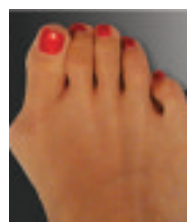
MANHATTAN'S PREMIERE FOOT DOCTORS



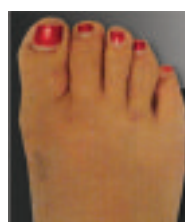
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six tips should serve as necessary refreshment. / THINKSTOCK

practice Beginner's Mind as you study the faces of fellow passengers and see how many soften when you smile.

3 Unexplained, prolonged delays on trains and buses when you're running late for an appointment are stellar opportunities to practice Patience. Take deep breaths and feel your feet on the ground. Simultaneously, you might also practice Non-Judging. Maybe the conductor isn't taking a nap or consumed in a riveting game of iPhone Solitaire. Perhaps he or she has laryngitis, ran to the bathroom or hasn't been notified by headquarters. Again, take several deep breaths.

4 Circling around six times for a parking spot on the Upper West Side on a Sunday night is an opportunity to practice Trust that someone will eventually pull out just as

Take a stroll

"Walk down a block near your home or work that you don't normally take. Find something that draws your attention — a tree, beautiful architecture, an animal, or a sidewalk flower bed. ... You might be pleasantly surprised to notice things you might have overlooked before."

you are pulling up, and Letting Go when you realize you have to throw the car in a lot.

5 Next time you feel you're not doing enough, seeing enough, reading enough and being enough, practice the art of Non-Striving. While antithetical to most cosmopolitans, Non-Striving means that you don't need to do anything — just allow yourself to be. Embrace the perfection of imperfection.

6 We practice Acceptance when we see things just as they are. We accept that a parking ticket is the price of having a car in the city. We practice Non-Judging by forgiving ourselves for forgetting that Tuesday is street cleaning. And we accept that sometimes we have to live in overpriced, over-crowded cities because our loved ones are employed here.

Health roundup

Get fit, eat right

Barry's Bootcamp in Chelsea (135 W. 20th St., 646-559-2721) just got a huge makeover for spring. The hard-core fitness studio took over the location next store to them, which added more space in the studio itself and doubled the size of the ladies locker room. But we're most excited about the revamped Fuel Bar. In addition to smoothies, the bar will now offer full meals like pepper-crusted salmon and mini-quinoa burgers.

Take a spin on the High Line

If you're feeling very charitable (and we mean very), you can sign up for **SoulCycle's** ride on the High Line, taking place April 11 at 6:30 p.m. The studio is setting up 100 bikes on the High Line and bringing on master instructors Stacey Griffith and Laurie Cole for a ride that will benefit The Friends of the High Line. After the workout, there will be champagne and canapes overlooking the city. Spots range from \$500 to \$5,000 — sign up at www.thehighline.org.

Sweet charity

It's important to treat yourself every now and then. Why not do so for a good cause? **Magnolia Bakery** (www.magnoliabakery.com) is teaming up with the Michael J. Fox Foundation for a special cupcake in honor of Parkinson's Awareness Month (April). Peter Endriss, the head baker at Gowan's **Runner & Stone Bakery** (282 Third Ave., Brooklyn, 718-576-3360) has partnered with the ELIJA School for a special line of cookies.



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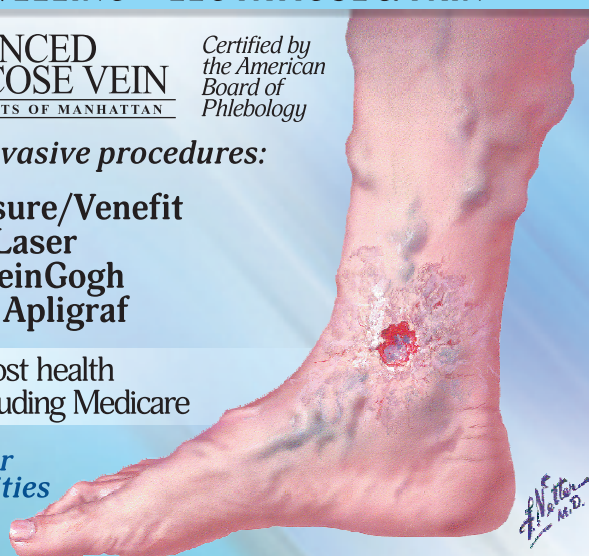
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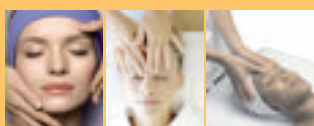
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Burst out: Maximize your productivity

Jobs. By working in bursts and setting time aside for collaboration, you can get more done.

Some days, you feel like you got nothing done at work. It's not uncommon: The email inbox grows, instant messages pop up and colleagues interrupt your workflow. Productivity consultant and author of "The Accomplishing More With Less Workbook" Pierre Khawand says: "When we are working a few minutes here and a few minutes there, we are staying at the superficial level and not getting deep into anything." Here are his strategies for digging in deeper to get more work done.

How can people reach their level of optimal productivity?

The first element has to do with how results change

with time when we are working on a task. When we start to work on the task, we get results. But at some point, the results level off and then diminish, because either we get mentally tired and are no longer productive, or we need someone else to do their part before we can continue. This is all good in theory, but what happens in reality is that a few minutes after we start to work on a task, we get interrupted. When we get interrupted, our results go down to zero — this happens again and again. It's part of life in today's work

environment.

So how do we stay on task?

A key element is starting the day by identifying what we intend to accomplish that day and ending the day with a reconciliation process. That ensures that we close the loops on open issues. Instead of starting the day with email, we should stop for a minute or two to reflect on what is important and what we want to accomplish. Then, put it in writing.

The idea is that we need to stay focused long enough so that we can

achieve in-depth thinking, attract creative problem solving and get meaningful things done. Depending on the task, it can be 15 minutes, 30 minutes or several hours. Once we have accomplished something meaningful, it is time to stop our "focused" session, and switch to being collaborative — handle email, phone calls, have live discussions. This is the collaborative work where we get the most of our team productivity and equally important results. After the collaborative session, it is time to take a break — do something that gets us re-energized and ready for the next focused session. No significant productivity gains, and therefore no significant accomplishments, can be achieved if we don't optimize our workflow by recognizing the concepts described above: focus, collaborate, then play!

DOUGLAS SMITH

letters@metro.us

Burst out

Working in bursts manages tasks, interruptions and energy. It makes you feel invigorated and accomplished as a result.

- Alternate between focus, collaboration and play.

- Be intensely and wholeheartedly in each burst. That's what the "burst" label is for — to maximize output.

- Each burst should build toward and enhance the next burst.

The Broad Experience



ASHLEY MILNE-TYTE

ASHLEY MILNE-TYTE IS A RADIO PRODUCER AND REPORTER BASED IN NEW YORK CITY. SHE HOSTS A BI-MONTHLY PODCAST CALLED "THE BROAD EXPERIENCE" ABOUT WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE.

NEGOTIATING WHEN FEMALE

How often do you negotiate a raise? If you're female, the answer is quite likely to be not often, or even never. My first time came about 12 years ago. I was in my 20s and about to switch roles within a company. My co-worker told me I should shoot for a number that constituted a 25 percent raise. It seemed like a huge amount and I found it horribly awkward to discuss money — let alone think I was actually worth something. I squirmed at the thought. But during the interview, I summoned up the courage to make the ask. My supervisor acted surprised, which made me uncomfortable, but I managed to resist backing down. He muttered that it was a very large raise and I was unlikely to receive that much. Still, he said he'd see what he could do.

I got it. That was my first lesson in negotiating. Just ask — they can always say no. In almost every study done on negotiating, women

simply don't ask for raises as frequently as men do. It's one of the many reasons for the gender pay gap. Of course, I know men who hate negotiating as much as I do (I never said it was fun) and women who consider it a point of pride to fight fiercely for what they're worth. But in general, women have so many issues about our worth in the world that we are terrible at this. Women face particular challenges when it comes to asking for what we want.

Society still views women as nice and accommodating. Asking for more money doesn't fit that picture. So we have to be careful how we do it to avoid turning people off. But if you don't ask, you have no idea what you could get. You could be turned down, but isn't it better to find out by asking in the first place?



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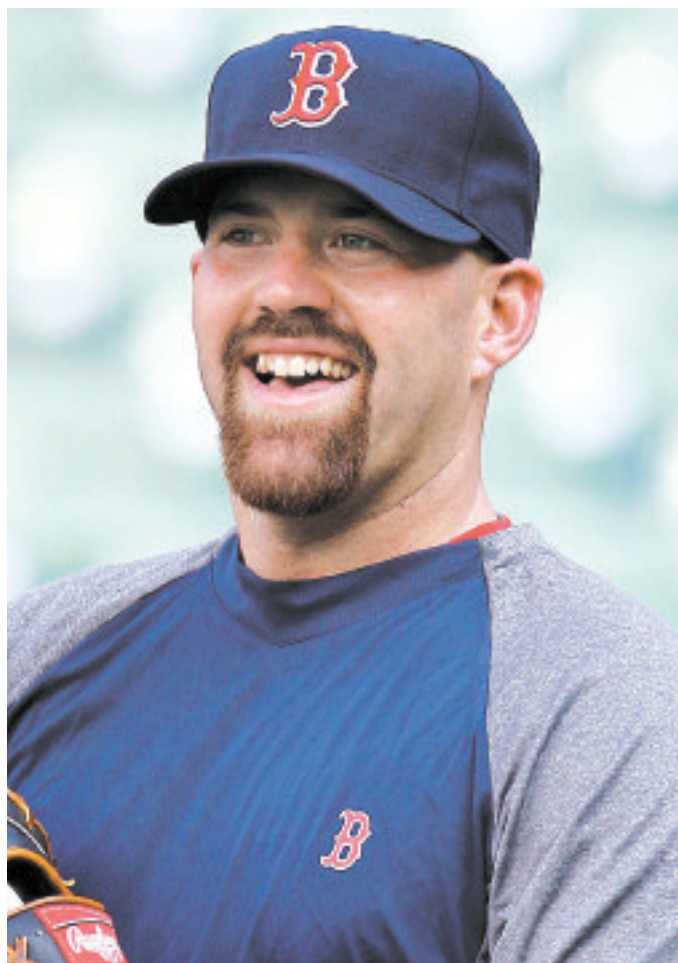
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Kevin Youkilis has a different look than he did on the Red Sox as he becomes the latest to join the "Evil Empire." / GETTY IMAGES

Sox face old friend, now foe in Youkilis

MLB. The Yankees third baseman is ready to square off with his former team.

For parts of the previous seven seasons, Jon Lester, Dustin Pedroia and Kevin Youkilis teamed up on the Boston side of the rivalry with the Yankees.

On Monday, all three will be present at Yankee Stadium. But now the former Red Sox third baseman is clean-shaven and playing third and first base for the Yankees.

"That's going to be different, especially [that he's] clean-shaven," Pedroia said. "It'll be different. Youk's been family for a long time."

At least Pedroia won't have to pitch to Youkilis. That goes to Lester, who

will be making his third Opening Day start and looks to rebound from the worst season in his career.

Lester faced his former teammate twice after the June 24 trade to the White Sox, but instead of issuing the standard "just another game" cliché, he conceded it is a strange sight.

"It would be weird," Lester said. "I wouldn't have ever thought that

would happen, but he made that choice for him and his family and got a chance to play third base here. I'm sure he's excited about it, but now he's one of the bad guys. We got to worry about him tomorrow."

A clean-shaven Youkilis in Yankee pinstripes may not even be the most bizarre aspect of Monday's season opener.

Most preseason forecasts don't expect much from either team. The Red Sox are coming off their worst season since 1966, while the Yankees will be missing Alex Rodriguez, Curtis Granderson, Mark Teixeira and Derek Jeter to various injuries.

"It might exist out there and certainly many have written about it, but I don't know if we spend too much time consuming ourselves with what people on the outside are saying or writing," Red Sox manager John Farrell said. "It's the belief of that group inside that clubhouse that matters most, and our standard or expectation can't be compromised by what's taken place in the past."

LARRY FLEISHER
sports@metro.us

Title team?

Don't tell Andy Pettitte the expectations for the Yankees are low.

- "I don't let my mind go in that direction because I think we're going to win our division and I expect us to be in the World Series. Bottom line."



Boo birds

A-Rod to be at Opening Day

The Yankees will have their highest-paid player at Opening Day.

Alex Rodriguez, of the \$27.5 million salary and degenerative hip condition, will be at the game. Whether he will actually be introduced to a likely hostile crowd is unknown. Rodriguez will begin the season on the DL after hip surgery. **METRO**



Rodriguez / GETTY IMAGES

Final Four

Louisville, Michigan advance

The Final Four is now set for next week in Atlanta. Louisville and Michigan both swept into the last four teams alive with resounding victories over Duke and Florida, respectively. Louisville and Duke were close at the half, but a 50-31 second half, spurred on by a gruesome injury to teammate Kevin Ware, earned the win. Michigan goes to their first Final Four since 1993.

Bye Bears

Baylor upset in women's tourney

Brittney Griner has played her final collegiate game. Griner's Baylor Bears were the odds-on favorites to win the NCAA women's tournament, but they ran into an upset courtesy of No. 5 seed Louisville. Griner scored just 14 points, on 4-of-10 shooting, while three different players for the Cardinals scored in double digits.

3

SPORTS



Jon Niese makes his first career Opening Day start today against Edinson Volquez and the Padres (1:10 p.m., SNY). / NICK LAHAM, GETTY IMAGES

Niese: 'I think we'll win'

MLB. The Mets are adopting a positive attitude despite early-season doubters.

The Mets are acutely aware of what the baseball world thinks of them. But it doesn't mean they believe the doom-and-gloom prophecy.

"I think we'll win. We'll win," Opening Day starter Jon Niese said in a press conference yesterday prior to the Mets' optional workout at Citi Field. The Mets will officially begin their 51st season this afternoon at home against the Padres.

Today's outing marks the first time in Niese's four full seasons with the Mets that he will make the Opening Day start. He

will be opposed by Edison Volquez.

Niese went 2-0 in five spring training starts. He finished with a 1.23 ERA in 22 innings, while limiting opponents to a .167 batting average.

He will face a Padres squad whose 43 home runs were the fifth most in spring training. San Diego's .282 team batting average was third best in the NL.

"It's kind of sunk in now that we're at Citi Field," Niese said. "[Monday] I'll be a little more anxious. I'm not going to treat it as an Opening Day. I'm going to treat it as a midseason start. Just be ready for it."

The manager then shared his message to the team Saturday before they departed Port St. Lucie, Fla., for Queens.

"[I] went over what the

expectations are here. We don't just show up and play here. There are expectations to play in this city. Our fans deserve a maximum effort each and every night," Collins said. "I know we've got the right guys to do that. We've got the right mix of guys here. Now we just got to go play."

DENIS GORMAN
sports@metro.us

On stage

Collins lays out rules

The negative forecasts are merely white noise to manager Terry Collins, who was unequivocal about what he will



require from his team. "[I] told the guys yesterday, 'You want

to be on the biggest stage? This is it.' There [are] expectations in our clubhouse. I know what the feeling is on the outside especially [without] Johan. We've got guys who are not here. R.A. [Dickey] is not here. But you know what? You're major-league players. I'm sorry. The minute you just think you [can] show up and you're a big league player, that's not going to fly here. We're going to find people who are going to play the game the right way, do things the right way and if they're not in that clubhouse, we'll go find them. If they're in [Triple-A] Las Vegas, we'll bring them up here."

Should the Mets finish fourth or worse in the East, it would be the third-longest stretch of futility in franchise history. **DENIS GORMAN**

Bad news

Santana out for entire season

When the news broke late Thursday that Mets ace Johan Santana

would need season-ending surgery, general manager Sandy Alderson left a sliver of hope that wouldn't necessarily be the case.

An examination of Santana in New York over the weekend confirmed the news, however. The 34-year-old will have a second

surgery on his left shoulder tomorrow. He will miss the entire season, and likely end his career with the Mets. **METRO**

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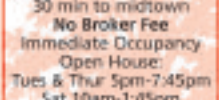
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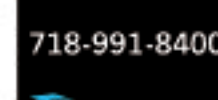
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